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TODD & BOWMAN'S PHYSIOLOGY, - TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

CLINICS.

Clinical Lecture on Delirium Tremens.
By D. J. CORRIGAN, M. D., Physician to the Whitworth and Hardwick Hospitals.

I am about to direct your attention to-day, gentlemen, to a case of delirium tremens taken into the Hardwick Hospital, and I have chosen this, as I do all the cases for clinical observation, in order to illustrate points of particular interest in private practice; and here I would remark that a mistake which students frequently fall into, is that of seeking for cases of unusual occurrence, while they neglect to acquire information on matters which materially affect their subsequent success as practitioners. The case which I will read for you is not a bad one, and that is the very reason why I am anxious to direct your attention to it.

Edmund Cope, a shoemaker, admitted on the 25th of January, 1846; had enjoyed very good health, though he had indulged in an occasional debauch, but was almost entirely free from illness, with the exception of attacks of delirium tremens, of which he had eight or ten previous to the present one. For the last few months he had lived in a tolerably regular and abstemious manner, seldom

exceeding a glass of spirits in the day; but on the 19th of January he left his home, and commenced a regular system of dissipation; his own expression was, "I went on a week's batter."

On Saturday evening, the 24th, he returned home, finding some of the symptoms he had experienced on so many former occasions again stealing over him, viz., pains in the head, restlessness, strange noises, bright colours, and fearful bodily shapes appearing before his eyes.

On the morning of the 25th, Sunday, he voluntarily sought for admission, presenting a wild expression of countenance; extremities shaking; head hot; eyes congested; thirst; tongue foul; abdomen hard, and somewhat tympanitic; bowels constipated; skin hot and dry; pulse 90; respiration somewhat accelerated. He complains of slight pain in the head, restlessness, and want of sleep; thinks he hears strange, unearthly voices talking of his former bad deeds; and sees fearful bodily shapes continually flitting past his bed.

Ordered a cathartic mixture and twenty-two drops of black drop at bed-time.

26th.—Felt better, and slept a little.

To have a diaphoretic mixture.

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A consideration of the case before you will show that a division of the diseases in question may be advantageously made. There is a form of it termed asthenic delirium tremens, which is that to which we attach our ideas of the disease, and from which we derive our notions of the treatment adapted to it; the history we generally find to be as follows :—

A man comes under treatment, not after a few days' illness, but for a considerable time he has been subject in the morning to symptoms similar to those that follow the exhibition of large doses of opium, or of stimulants—symptoms, in fact, resembling collapse. His stomach is sick in the morning, the skin is clammy, and he is unable to collect his mind for any purpose until the accustomed stimulus is renewed. In this way he continues for an uncertain period of time, till at length vomiting sets in; he can no longer drink, and now the state of collapse, or nervous irritation, such as precedes an attack of acute disease, comes on, and obliges the patient to seek your advice. He cannot sleep; images of various kinds float before his eyes; his stomach is sick; pulse quick and weak; skin cold and clammy—a set of symptoms constituting, as I have said, a state of collapse consequent on the cessation of long-continued stimulants. Your patient is altogether in a condition in which death may occur at any moment, so that the prognosis here is exceedingly uncertain.

I have myself, in attending cases of this sort, known the patient die before I had reached the hall door, when a minute before I had seen him turn round in bed. In these cases it is necessary to give stimulants and opium; the opium, you are to remember, is given to allay irritation, and the stimulants in order to bear up the system.

Cold douching and a variety of other remedies may be used; but upon them it is not necessary to dwell, as they are sufficiently noticed in every book you meet with. There is one particular symptom observed, usually I think about the second or third day, and one which is never absent; I allude to the tremulous motion of the fibres of the tongue, not of the whole body of the organ, but of a sort of independent motion of individual fibres here and there. The same thing is seen in the orbicularis muscle of the mouth. These signs are sufficient to lead us to a knowledge of the previous history, though the patient himself should deny

the circumstances. It often happens that your patient has received a wound in some way; for instance, thrusting his hand through a pane of glass. Now, if, while you are giving the opium, you watch the appearance of such a wound, and find that, instead of secreting the natural purulent discharges, the edges are reverted and red, with the surface dry, you may be assured your patient will not recover; for these indications, like those of the tongue, only being more certain, are evidences that the nutritive function is arrested, and life cannot long continue when that function is impaired to a great extent. Such, then, is a sketch of the more frequent form of the disease.

The next variety gets a similar name—delirium tremens—but we should carefully mark the distinctions between this and the first-described variety, or a fatal mistake may be made. And here I should observe, that it is the fact of thus erroneously describing under one name varieties in this disease, which has given rise to such a contrariety of opinions respecting the mode of treatment, &c., proper to be adopted in it. Dr. Lendrick, a man of great observation, first showed that the ordinary treatment, as opium and stimulants, would not do here, and that bleeding should be had recourse to. I believe, then, that two very different conditions of disease have been confounded under the same name; so you are not always to suppose, when you have got hold of a name, that you have by any means got hold of the disease.

The case I am now about to describe may be called sthenic delirium tremens. A man has been drinking for two, three, or four days, and is in a condition very different from the person who has been a long time accustomed to stimulants; there is in this man a state of irritation of the brain and nervous system only in a very trifling degree removed from actual phrenitis, and were you to give opium in such a case, it would act not as a sedative but as a continued stimulant, and you would thus be keeping up the diseased condition into which the patient had plunged himself. Remember, then, that this is a mild case, there being a certain amount of irritation, but a strong approach to positive inflammation. Gastritis is a common accompaniment of this form of delirium tremens, at least a state, like that of the brain, of approaching inflammation of the stomach, marked, as I have said, by some symptoms

of nervous irritation, but nothing like the collapse of the former case. During the period of a general election cases of the sthenic kind are frequently met with; for instance, a man of previous abstemious habits spends two or three successive nights drinking ardent spirits, and presents himself with the symptoms I have sketched for you.

In this, the sthenic form of the disease, then, do not give opium; apply leeches to the epigastrium, and to the head, as also cold lotions; these, with rest, and small doses of mercury, are your chief remedies. When you have to some extent allayed the irritation, you may then make a slight approach to the treatment adapted to the first case, but do not commence by stimulating. Recollect that a compound form of the disease presents itself in this case.

We now come to the third division of the disease, a form of it in which very little active treatment is necessary; and I may tell you that the skill of the medical man is often most seen in his abstaining entirely from any decided treatment; good practice consists in that as much as in anything else. You must not entirely refrain, however, from giving medicine, if it were merely for the purpose of keeping in view the advantage of the impression on your patient's mind that you are making some exertion for him: and this is a point deserving your attention, for were your patient even a medical man it would be necessary to act on this principle.

A man presents himself, who has been at one time temperate, at another drinking perhaps for two or three days, and is now labouring under more or less irritation of the brain, manifested by slight attacks of delirium, and want of sleep, forming, in fact, a link between the condition already described as sthenic delirium tremens and the state of collapse. The subject of a case like this gets repeated attacks of a trifling kind; he may be, as I have just said, at one time temperate, at another—perhaps in traveling and stopping at different hotels—drinking three, four, or half a dozen days, and at length falls into a state constituting our third division: he is capable of exertion, understands what you say to him, and will speak collectively, but when left to himself, fancies strange sights hovering about him. He is neither, as I have said, in the state of the collapse of the asthenic form, nor does he betray the symptoms of cerebral derangement observed in the sthenic variety of the disease, but

there is danger of the affection assuming the perfect form from the too frequent recurrence of these slight attacks of mental aberration. The patient takes little or no nourishment. This variety of the disease, then, forms as it were the centre of the balance—but let nature have the management of it; leeching will not be borne, from the previous habits of the patient, and if opium be given, so as to be followed by dryness of the tongue, great mischief is done; so do as little as possible. Give the patient as much cold air as you can, at the same time keeping his room rather dark. You may either give him ice, or very cool saline mixture, or cold chicken tea. If restlessness should still persist, you may give small doses of opium, but much of the after treatment had better be left to nature. The three divisions I have sketched for you, you will find worth recollecting; they are such, as in an ordinary exercise of observation, in practice, must force themselves upon you.—*Med. Times*, Feb. 26, 1846.

SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL QUACKERY.

Electrical Girl. Exposure of the Humbug.—A most impudent attempt at jugglery has lately been played off at Paris, and unhappily for the dignity of the French Academy of Sciences, that learned body has been made the scene of it. At their meeting on the 16th of Feb. last, M. ARAGO stated to the Academy, that "he had been called upon to witness some of the most singular phenomena which he had ever beheld, in the shape of electric discharges of the most violent character, proceeding from the person of a young girl, [Mademoiselle Cottin,] aged thirteen, lately submitted to his inspection. This truly remarkable child overturns tables and chairs by merely touching them with her apron. When she sits down, the moment her feet touch the ground the chair is upset, and she is suddenly propelled with considerable force. M. Arago said he had seen all these experiments, and had not been able to detect any trick." He begged the Academy would appoint a committee to investigate the matter.

Coming as this communication did from such high scientific authority, the Academy unfortunately entertained the proposition of M. Arago, and referred it to MM. Arago, Becquerel, Isidore Geoffroy St. Hilaire, Babinet, Roger and Pariset.

On the 23d of February, M. A., on behalf of this committee, made the following communication:—"The Academy, on my motion, appointed a committee to examine a young girl who was reported to possess most marvelous qualities. The committee held two sittings. At the first I was unable to attend, but I can rely upon the account given me by my honourable colleagues. I have now to declare that none of the experiments made were successful—the young person did not produce any of the effects that had been announced. At the second sitting I was myself witness of the absence of the power talked of. Twenty times the pretended electrical child seated herself in a chair, and as often the chair remained in its place, without retiring, without the least movement. M. Chollet, who introduced her, attributed this want of success to intermittances which, he said, he had before observed. The following, however, are some details of other experiments:—At the Garden of Plants, on Tuesday last, the same movements of the chair were observed, as my colleagues and myself had previously ascertained to have been produced. They were seen a great number of times, and it was believed that the cause was discovered, and one of the persons present repeated them at the end of the sitting. The explanation in question reposes on the supposition of the use of one of the hands, but I am certain that, in the trials which I witnessed at the Observatory, before making my communication on Monday, the hands had nothing to do with the matter. On Wednesday last, at the second sitting of the committee, we saw nothing—for nothing was produced. We made trials with the apron, but it could not attract or repel the *guéridons* or tables, and we could not discover any effect whatever. There was one fact in the *Mémoire* of M. Tanchou about which there could not possibly be any deception. He stated that the girl, on touching the poles of a magnet, would feel a sensation of burning which would make her recognize the north pole. At the Garden of Plants this faculty was manifested; but the magnet being put into a box, the girl said she felt the burning when the south pole as well as when the north pole was touched by her, and even declared that she had the same sensation when the box was presented to her without the magnet. With regard, therefore, to this latter quality, the committee entertain

no doubt. They are not, perhaps, so well convinced upon the two others. Thus to meet the excuse drawn from possible intermittances in these phenomena, two members of the committee have been to the hotel in which the girl is lodged, and they affirm that there, from 7 till 9 in the evening, the phenomena were manifested in all their force. The phenomena have not re-appeared since the sitting of Tuesday in the Garden of Plants. It appears, however, that this intermittance is not indefinite, for I have this moment received a notice that the phenomena have recommenced. I have returned for answer, that the committee will meet again, and see the girl once more on the day and at the hour that may be appointed. The committee will fulfil the duties imposed upon it to the fullest extent."

On the 9th of March a note was read on behalf of the committee, they not thinking the subject worthy of a report; which was to the following effect:—"It had been said that Mademoiselle Cottin exercised a repulsive action of great intensity on bodies of all kinds, when touched by any portion of her garments. It was even asserted that *guéridons* were overthrown by the simple contact of a silk thread in her hands. No appreciable effect of the kind manifested itself before the committee.—In the narrative communicated to the Academy, it is related that a magnetized needle, submitted to the influence of the young girl's arm, made rapid oscillations in the first instance, and finally became stationary in a direction away from the magnetic meridian. In presence of the committee, a needle, delicately suspended, experienced, under the circumstances assumed, no displacement whatever, either permanent or momentary.—M. Tanchou believed that Mademoiselle Cottin had the faculty of distinguishing the north from the south pole of a magnet, by simply touching them with her fingers. The committee satisfied itself by numerous and varied experiments that the young girl in question possesses no such faculty.—The committee need not carry further the enumeration of these abortive attempts. It will confine itself to stating further, that the only one of the phenomena announced which was realized in the presence of its members, was that of abrupt and violent movements communicated to the chairs on which the young girl sat down. Serious suspicions having arisen as to the manner in which these effects

were produced, the committee determined to submit them to a careful examination; and openly declared that the object of its examination would be to discover the part which a secret and skillful use of the hands or feet might have in the matter. From that moment, the committee were assured that the attractive and repulsive faculty had departed, and that the members should have notice when it returned. Many days have elapsed; and the committee have had no such intimation,—although they have learnt that Mdle. Cottin is daily produced in salons, where she repeats her experiments. Under these circumstances, the committee is of opinion that the communications transmitted to the Academy on the subject of Mdle. Cottin should be considered as if they had never been received."

M. Arago has in this matter fully earned the censure bestowed on him by M. Majendie, who remarked to him, "the Academy regrets much the part that you have made it perform in this affair."

Quackery.—All members of the medical profession have some idea of the vastness of the system of quackery. They come too much in contact with its fatal consequences to the public, and are too much affected by it, both in pocket and respectability, to allow of its escaping their frequent attention. Few amongst them, however, we are persuaded, bestow upon it that concentration of thought which is necessary to gain a full knowledge of its extent and workings. There are some abuses which, seen at a moderate distance, appear to be of immense size, but when minutely examined, dwindle down to moderate proportions. So is it not with quackery in medicine. The more steadily this is contemplated, the larger it grows, the more it is seen creeping through channels which at first sight seemed pure, and wearing forms of apparent legitimacy. The following is an example of the many modes in which it may be approached for examination.

One of the "patent medicine venders, perfumers, chemists, druggists, and general medical booksellers," has for some years published an annual almanac. This publication extends to 224 pages octavo, and is sold for sixpence. On every copy there must be a considerable loss, but it is only ostensibly an almanac, being, in reality, an ingenious mode of advertising quack medicines. There is an immense array of quack

advertisements, not as these things generally are, appended to the end, but mixed up with the information, or proper almanac material. They have one page of intelligence for the year, and another page of quack advertisements, and if the plan does not extend throughout the whole 224 pages, they contrive to make it go as far as possible. The readers have not much choice left them, the two kinds of matter are so carefully intermixed. If the information is modestly printed, the advertisement glares with giant-type and staring wood-cuts, to catch the reader's attention. Thus you cannot look for the acts of the last session of Parliament, without being caught by "DYSON'S anti-bilious pills," or an "Ophthalmic ointment." "Imports and exports" are mixed up with "MULREADY'S Cough Elixir," "Weights and Measures" with "CHEDDON'S Herbal Tonic," "Royal Genealogies" with "SNOOKS' Anti-bilious," and so on to the end.

Thus much for an ingenious mode of advertising the various pretences and frauds of quackery. But the *numbers* of the quack nostrums are astounding. Column after column, page after page, pass under the eye almost interminably. The mere index, which simply enumerates them, occupies upwards of twenty columns of close printing. The index of the Pharmacopœia of the College of Physicians is an infant beside it. Take number as the test, and quackery has a greater *armamentarium medicum* than is furnished to the simple practitioner by all the Pharmacopœias of all the colleges, London, Edinburgh, and Dublin together.

The titles of the different nostrums are a study. Here and there stands the name of some notorious quack, alone in his humbug, as far as name is concerned, like HOLLOWAY or MORRISON; but the great number of titles are taken from the names of chemists and druggists, or living and dead medical practitioners, with a sprinkling of divines and titled ladies. * * * * *

Among the names of past physicians and surgeons thus polluted, we have ARMSTRONG, BAILLIE, DENMAN, BABINGTON, BATEMAN, FORDYCE, FOTHERGILL, GARTHSHORE, GREGORY, HOOPER, HUXHAM, LATHAM, LETTSOM, SYDENHAM, and many others. The living medical names in this list connected with patent medicines or other nostrums, voluntarily or involuntarily, are—COCKLE, CORY, DURLACHER, FRANK, HALSE, LOCOCK, SIR JAMES MURRAY, NAS-

MYTH, and WRAY. The names of LOCOCK and NASMYTH, here assumed, are evident forgeries. For the rest, we here merely mention the simple fact of their appearance, reserving this branch of the subject for another occasion.

Besides the medical names shining as titles, a professional air is given to the whole subject by quotations of letters "from an eminent surgeon," "from an eminent London physician," without, of course, in the majority of instances, either name or date. When names are given, it is generally from the late Dr. Saunders, or from some ordinary name to which it is quite safe to add a medical title. "Cheddon's herbal tonic pills" are rich in this respect. Dr. BELL's and Dr. BROWN's are safe names to give; but imagine the impudence which could print the following as a letter "from the late Dr. DARWALL, of Birmingham."

"April 10th, 1833.—Dear Sir,—I have for several months been prescribing your pills in all cases of scrofula and scorbutic affections, with the greatest possible success. As these complaints are greatly upon the increase, there being scarcely a family free from them, I consider your medicine the most valuable ever discovered. I have also prescribed them in gout and rheumatism, as well as other complaints, in which I found them equally successful.—Believe me, dear sir, yours very sincerely,

"JOHN DARWALL, M.D."

"To C. S. CHEDDON, Esq."

The inference we wish to draw from all this is, that quackery is of itself weak, that it could not exist in its present rampant state if all the overt and covert assistance it obtains from medical men and medical names was entirely withdrawn. The names of dead men, however eminent, would be of little use unless they were indorsed by the living. The great mass who swallow quack medicines do so under the full impression that the medical profession in their hearts know them to be beneficial, and are only withheld by form and self-interest from avowing it openly. The great supporters, and, indeed, creators of this morbid form of public opinion, are those who thoughtlessly or intentionally give quack or pseudo-quack preparations their testimonials of efficacy; those who allow quacks to forge their names to lying documents to any extent without let or hindrance; and, above all, those unworthy members who actually are so lost to

self and professional respect as to become the proprietors of patent medicines, or secret remedies, or who in any way issue their medicines in company with the lowest quack nostrums. Each of these divisions of the medical support, or countenance, of quackery, we shall have rigidly to dissect before we come to the naked thing itself. * *

Will the medical profession quietly continue poor, and let others batten upon their rights in this manner?

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Philadelphia Medical Society.—*Delegates to the National Convention.*—The following gentlemen have been elected delegates to represent the Society in the National Medical Convention to be held in New York on the first Tuesday in May, viz:—Drs. J. Bell, H. Bond, G. W. Norris, I. Hays, G. Emerson, I. Parrish, J. Warrington, J. R. Paul, C. Morris, F. West, A. Stillé, and M. Clymer.

Medical Graduates in St. Louis.—At the recent annual commencements of the Medical Departments of the University of Missouri and of the St. Louis University, the former graduated twenty-nine, and the latter eleven young gentlemen.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Journ.*, April.

Ellis's Medical Formulary—Correction.—The publishers of this work respectfully request those persons who have the seventh edition, to correct a typographical error for the "*medicated hydrocyanate of potassium*" at page 83; wherein the symbol for an ounce is used in place of that for a drachm. The following is the correct prescription, and corresponds with the proportions directed in all the previous editions of the work. R—Potassii hydrocyanici medicati ʒj; aquæ distillatæ Oj; sacchari purificati ʒiiss. Fiat solutio. Dose, a tablespoonful, night and morning.

Carpenter's Elements of Physiology.—A new work on Physiology, by Dr. Carpenter, has just been issued by Messrs. Lea and Blanchard. It is an elementary treatise, designed for the use of students, and is most admirably adapted for the purpose. The illustrations are beautiful, and very numerous, extending to 180 figures.

They have also published Kirby and Spence's Entomology, with plates, plain or coloured.

In a few days will be ready Dr. Clymer's work on Fevers.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Instinct of Animals.—"Many thousand dogs in a state of *feræ naturæ* prowl through the streets of all the great towns of Spain, acting in fact as the only effectual scavengers, and removing with great gusto into their own stomachs, offal, which the laziness of the inhabitants would leave, perhaps, in the streets to inevitable putrescence.

"It is nearly incredible, yet I am a personal witness to the fact, that the instinct of these animals attained to such a pitch of exquisite sagacity, that, finding a few of their numbers to die from poisoned meats administered at night, they fled in troops out of Madrid every evening, and entered the city in the morning the moment the gates were opened. They thus out-generated the municipality, who had determined to exterminate them."—*Revelations of Spain in 1845*, vol. 2.

Smuggling of Leeches into Spain.—Senor Sanguijuela, let me call him, imported his own supplies from Tangier by way of Gibraltar. I met him on board a steamer from that place to Cadiz. He was very communicative, and when I cut him short with a "But where the *diablo* are the leeches?" "Why look you, Don Fulano!" he replied, unstrapping an enormous handkerchief which was swathed round his waist next the skin. The handkerchief was streaming with water to keep the leeches alive, and had at least two thousand coiled within its folds.

The application of leeches is here (in Spain) a separate profession, and the surgeon or apothecary will not meddle with such things, but refers you to him whose *specialité* it is. Every town has its two or three shops for the sale of leeches.—*Ibid.*

Medical Profession in Spain.—In Spain, the eminent members of the medical and surgical professions almost invariably belong to both faculties, and practise in both. Their universities place surgery now in the same rank with medicine; nearly the same preliminary education is required to qualify for both, and in each faculty the same degrees are taken. There are still pure physicians

and pure surgeons, but in most cases they are united. The old gradations are rigidly adhered to, and there is a regular series of bachelors, licentiates and doctors, in medicine and surgery, as well as in divinity, law and philosophy. A certain amount of university education, or of general education in colleges qualified to confer degrees, is a requisite preliminary to graduation in either faculty.

Many reforms have been attempted in the schools of medicine, with but little success. The object of these is to extricate the profession from the inadequate consideration, in which it is unfortunately held in Spain; the true cause of which is, that the fees are so wretchedly low as to present neither a prize nor an encouragement. Hence, most inevitably, an inferior order of practitioners. How could it be otherwise, when you are attended at a shilling or two a visit?

There are two descriptions of medical attendants in Spain, as in other countries, the ordinary or family physician and the physician called in to hold a consultation in cases of emergency. The former is styled the "bolster physician;" the latter, the "doctor of appeal."—*Ibid.*

Sulphurous Baths.—A letter was read to the French Academy of Sciences on the 26th of January last, from Dr. LALLEMAND, who is with Ibrahim Pacha, and in which, after giving a satisfactory account of the health of his patient, he speaks of the beneficial results arising from a new mode of employing sulphurous waters, resorted to at the baths of Vernet. Nowhere, says Dr. Lallemand, have the thermal waters been administered in winter, even in the most favoured localities as to climate, and yet the winter is the season in which it is most necessary to combat the maladies for which they are useful, as the patients then suffer most acutely, and relapses are more frequent. In order to be able with perfect safety to administer the thermal waters in winter, the entire establishment must be kept at an invariable temperature of twenty degrees centigrade, and this cannot be done by stoves or open fireplaces, which require a current of air and are irregular in their action. The effect may indeed be produced by steam-pipes, but this is a very expensive system. The only certain, and at the same time economical, means is the water of the baths themselves; and this is quite practicable when the spring at

its source has a heat of at least sixty degrees centigrade, is very abundant, and is brought to a height greater than that of the building itself, so that the water may circulate freely through every part of it. The thermal establishment must also be in a temperate climate. Dr. Lallemand then proceeds to speak of the well-known powers of sulphurous waters in old affections of the lungs; but states that hitherto the attempts to place them in direct contact with the lungs by inhalation through tubes have been attended with painful effects to the patient. To obviate this evil, Dr. Lallemand makes his patients inhale in the natural way the atmosphere of these waters. The patient is placed in a large room fitted up for the purpose so that the water may arrive from below and fall from the top, and be at a regular temperature of from eighteen to twenty degrees. At first the patient can bear this only one or two hours, but by degrees he is habituated to the atmosphere, and can remain twelve hours without inconvenience. In a very few days, adds the doctor, the patient experiences decided benefit, and eventually radical cures are performed. He asserts that there are at this moment, at Vernet, several consumptive patients who were cured there a few years ago, but who, as a measure of precaution against the return of the disease, pass the most rigorous portion of the winter at the establishment. Dr. Lallemand affirms that he is speaking of well-authenticated cases of tubercular disease, some of which had reached the third stage, which, under ordinary circumstances, is fatal.—*Athenæum*.

Action of Sugar on the Teeth.—From researches made on this subject, M. Larrey has come to the following conclusions:—

1. Refined cane, or beet-root sugar, is prejudicial to the teeth more from its direct contact than from the evolution of gaseous matter during digestion.

2. If a tooth be allowed to macerate in a saturated solution of sugar, it is so decomposed as to acquire almost a gelatinous character, while the enamel becomes opaque and spongy, and crumbles down under the slightest pressure. Sugar ought not, therefore, to enter into the composition of tooth-powder.

3. The erosion of the teeth by this substance does not depend on an acid, for none is present in sugar; but on the affinity which this organic principle has to enter into com-

bination with the calcareous base of the tooth.

4. If the enamel be less attacked than the osseous part of the tooth, the reason is that it contains fluoride of calcium, a body which resists chemical agency even more than the sulphate of lime.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, July, 1845.

Treatment of Scabies.—Mr. STIFF asserts that he has cured more than 40 cases of itch by inunction with simple lard, unaided by any other treatment.—*Med. Times*, July 26.

Nevus Maternus.—Mr. HARVEY describes, in a late No. of the *London Medical Gazette*, a singular mark which he found round part of the neck of a newly-born child, which appeared as if strangulation by a cord had been attempted. He asks, if this had been a secret or sudden and unassisted delivery, if a coroner's jury would not have unhesitatingly pronounced it a case of infanticide.

Election of a Professor of Anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris.—After a brilliant concours, Dr. DENONVILLIERS has been elected to fill the chair of anatomy, vacated by the death of Brechet.

Obituary Record.—Died, at Rouen, after a long and painful illness, M. FLAUBERT, surgeon-in-chief to the Hôtel-Dieu of that city, and one of the most distinguished surgeons of France, aged 61 years. It is contemplated to erect a statue to his memory.

—, at Paris, Dr. DE LENS, formerly inspector-general of the University, and one of the authors of the *Dictionnaire Universel de Matière Médicale et de Thérapeutique Générale*.

—, at London, in the 82d year of his age, JOSEPH CONSTANTINE CARPUE, formerly a very successful and distinguished teacher of anatomy, and an eminent surgeon.

—, at Berlin, on the 11th Jan. last, Dr. SACHS, editor of the *Allgemeine Medicinische Central Zeitung*.

—, at Naples, Prof. ANTONIO NANULA, aged 66. He was the founder of the fine collection of Pathological Anatomy belonging to the University of Naples.

—, suddenly, at Paris, J. J. VIREY, M. D., aged 71 years; one of the most distinguished naturalists of France, and a very voluminous writer.